

Buginese language

Buginese or **Bugis** (*Basa Ugi*, elsewhere also *Bahasa Bugis*, *Bugis*, *Bugi*, *De*) is a language spoken by about five million people mainly in the southern part of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Contents

- History
- Classification
- Geographical distribution
- Phonology
- Grammar
 - Pronouns
 - Aspects
 - Examples
- Writing system
 - The Buginese Lontara
- Dialects and subdialects
- Numbers
- Trivia
- See also
- References
 - Bibliography
- External links

History

The word Buginese derives from the word *Bahasa Bugis* in Malay. In Buginese, it is called *Basa Ugi* while the Bugis people are called *To Ugi*. According to a Buginese myth, the term *Ugi* is derived from the name to the first king of Cina, an ancient Bugis kingdom, *La Sattumpugi*. *To Ugi* basically means "the followers of La Sattumpugi".^[3]

Little is known about the early history of this language due to the lack of written records. The earliest written record of this language is Sureq Galigo, the epic creation myth of the Bugis people.

Another written source of Buginese is Lontara, a term which refers to the traditional script and historical record as well. The earliest historical record of Lontara dates to around the 17th century. Lontara records have been described by historians of Indonesia as "sober" and "factual" when compared to their counterparts from other regions of Maritime Southeast Asia, such as the babad of Java. These records are usually written in a matter-of-fact tone with very few mythical elements, and the writers would usually put disclaimers before stating something that they cannot verify.^{[4][5][6]}

Prior to the Dutch arrival in the 18th century, a missionary, B.F. Matthews, translated the Bible into Buginese, which made him the first European to acquire knowledge of the language. He was also one of the first Europeans to master Makassarese. The dictionaries and grammar books compiled by him, and the literature and folklore texts he published, remain basic sources of information about both languages.

Upon colonization by the Dutch, a number of Bugis fled from their home area of South Sulawesi seeking a better life. This led to the existence of small groups of Buginese speakers throughout Maritime Southeast Asia.

Classification

Buginese belongs to South Sulawesi subgroup of the Austronesian language family. Within the South Sulawesi subgroup, it is most closely related to Campalagian.

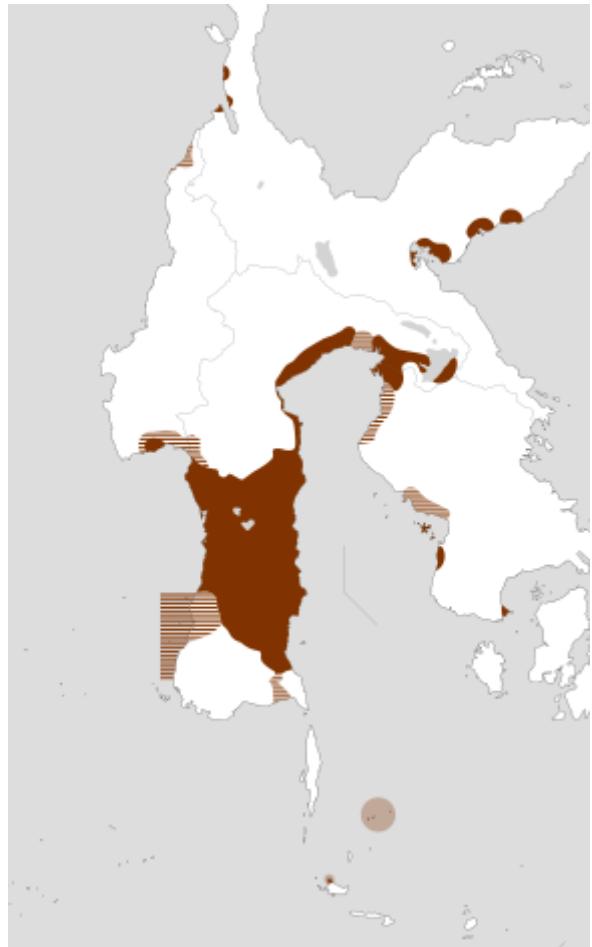
Geographical distribution

Most of the native speakers (around 3 million) are concentrated in South Sulawesi, Indonesia but there are small groups of Buginese speakers in the island of Java, Samarinda and east Sumatra of Indonesia, east Sabah and Malay Peninsula, Malaysia and South Philippines. This Bugis diaspora are the result of migration since 17th centuries that was mainly driven by continuous warfare situations. (The Dutch direct colonization started in early 20th century.)

Phonology

Buginese has six vowels: a, e, i, o, u, and the central vowel ə.

The following table gives the consonant phonemes of Buginese together with their representation in Lontara script.



The distribution of Bugis and Campalagian speakers throughout Sulawesi

Consonants

		Labial		Dental		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>voiced</u>	[m]	∨	[n]	∧	[ɳ]	~~	[ɳ]	↗		
<u>Prenasalized cluster</u>		[mp]	⤧	[nr]	⤧	[ɳc]	⤧	[ɳk]	⤧		
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>voiced</u>	[b]	⤧	[d]	⤧	[ɟ]	⤧	[g]	⤧		
	<u>voiceless</u>	[p]	⤧	[t]	⤧	[c]	⤧	[k]	⤧	[?] *	
<u>Fricative</u>				[s]	◊					[h]	∞
<u>Rhotic</u>				[r]	⤧						
<u>Approximant</u>		[w]	~~	[l]	~~	[ɿ]	~~				

* /?/ only occurs finally, and is therefore not written in Lontara.

When Buginese is written in Latin script, general Indonesian spelling conventions are applied: [ɳ] is represented by "ny", [ɳ] by "ng", [ɟ] by "j", [ɟ] by "y". The glottal stop [?] is usually represented by an apostrophe (e.g. *ana'* [ana?] "child"), but occasionally "q" is also used. /e/ and /ə/ are usually uniformly spelled as "e", but /e/ is often written as "é" to avoid disambiguity.

Grammar

Pronouns

Buginese has four sets of personal pronouns, one free set, and three bound sets:^[7]

	independent	enclitic	prefixed	suffixed
1st person singular	<i>ia'</i>	-a'/-ka'/-wa'	(k)u-	-(k)ku'
2nd person familiar	<i>iko</i>	-o/-ko	<i>mu-</i>	-(m)mu
3rd person	<i>ia</i>	-i/-wi	<i>na-</i>	-(n)na
1st person plural/ 2nd person polite	<i>idi'</i>	-i'/-ki'	<i>ta-</i>	-(t)ta'
1st person plural excl. (archaic)	<i>ikəŋ</i>	-kkəŋ	<i>ki-</i>	-mməŋ

The enclitic set is used with subjects of intransitive verbs, and objects of transitive verbs. The proclitic set is with subjects of transitive verbs. The suffixed set is primarily used in possessive function.

Aspects

The following are grammatical aspects of the language:^[8]

Durative	Perfective	Conditional	Doubt	Emphasis	Place
kaq	naq	paq	gaq	si	é
kiq/ko	niq/no	piq/po	giq/go	sa	tu
kiq	niq	piq	giq	to	ro
i	ni	pi	gi	mi	
	na	pa	ga		

Examples

A:    

pura-no

manre

have + [portmanteau of perfective *na* (↗) + you] eat

Have you already eaten?

B:  

deq-pa

not + [conditional (↗)]

Not yet.

Note that /q/ represent a glottal stop. Therefore it is not written.

Example of usage:

■    

Lit.: want-I bathe

I want to take a bath

Writing system

Buginese was traditionally written using the Lontara script, of the Brahmic family, which is also used for the Makassar language and the Mandar language. The name Lontara derives from the Malay word for the palmyra palm, *lontar*, the leaves of which are the traditional material for manuscripts in India, South East Asia and Indonesia. Today, however, it is often written using the Latin script.

The Buginese Lontara

The Buginese lontara (locally known as *Aksara Ugi*) has a slightly different pronunciation from the other lontaras like the Makassarese. Like other Indic scripts, it also utilizes diacritics to distinguish the vowels [i], [u], [e], [o] and [ə] from the default inherent vowel /a/ (actually pronounced [ɔ]) implicitly represented in all base consonant letters (including the zero-consonant *a*).

But unlike most other Brahmic scripts of India, the Buginese script traditionally does not have any virama sign (or alternate half-form for vowel-less consonants, or subjoined form for non-initial consonants in clusters) to suppress the inherent vowel, so it is normally impossible to write consonant clusters (a few ones

were added later, derived from ligatures, to mark the prenasalization), geminated consonants or final consonants.

Older texts, however, usually did not use diacritics at all, and readers were expected to identify words from context and thus provide the correct pronunciation. As one might expect, this led to erroneous readings; for example, *bolo* could be misread as *bala* by new readers.

Dialects and subdialects

The Bugis still distinguish themselves according to their major precolony states (Bone, Wajo, Soppeng and Sidenreng) or groups of petty states (around Pare-Pare, Sinjai and Suppa.) The languages of these areas, with their relatively minor differences from one another, have been largely recognized by linguists as constituting dialects: recent linguistic research has identified eleven of them, most comprising two or more sub-dialects.

The following Buginese dialects are listed in the *Ethnologue*: Bone (Palakka, Dua Boccoe, Mare), Pangkep (Pangkajane), Camba, Sidrap (Sidenreng, North Pinrang, Alitta), Pasangkayu (Ugi Riawa), Sinjai (Enna, Palattae, Bulukumba), Soppeng (Kessi), Wajo, Barru (Pare-Pare, Nepo, Soppeng Riaja, Tompo, Tanete), Sawitto (Pinrang), Luwu (Luwu, Bua Ponrang, Wara, Malangke-Ussu).^[9]

Numbers

The numbers are:^[7]

1	«օ»	seddi
2	«ա»	dua
3	‘ա՞ն’	təllu
4	‘ա՞ն’	əppa'
5	‘ա՞ւ’	lima
6	‘ա՞ն’	ənnənq
7	‘ա՞ն’	pitu
8	‘ա՞ն’	aruá
9	‘ա՞սօն’	aserá
10	օնդա՞ն	səppulo
20	վա՞նդա՞ն	duappulo
30	‘ա՞նդա՞ն’	təlluppulo
40	սա՞նդա՞ն	patappulo
50	ձա՞նդա՞ն	limappulo
60	ձա՞նդա՞ն	ənnəppulona
70	ձա՞նդա՞ն	pituppulo
80	ա՞նդա՞ն	aruá pulona
90	ա՞սօնդա՞ն	aserá pulona
100	օնդ.	siratu'
1000	օնդ	sisəbbu

10,000	៥່່	silassa
100,000	៥່៥່៥່	sikətti

Trivia

- A Buginese poem is painted on a wall near the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden, Netherlands, as one of the wall poems in Leiden.^[10]

See also

- [Bugis of Sabah](#)
- [Bugis](#)
- [Pallawa](#)

References

1. [Buginese](https://www.ethnologue.com/language/bug) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/bug>) at *Ethnologue* (22nd ed., 2019)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Buginese" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bugi1244>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. T. Ambo, T. Joeharnani. "The Bugis-Makassarese: From Agrarian Farmers to Adventurous Seafarers". *Aboriginal, Australia, Marege', Bugis-Makassar, Transformation*. Universitas Hassanuddin: 2.
4. [Abidin 1971](#), pp. 165–166.
5. [Cummings 2007](#), p. 8.
6. [Hall 1965](#), p. 358.
7. Sirk, Ülo (1983). *The Buginese language*. Moscow: Akademia Nauk.
8. *Ritumpanna wélenrénné: sebuah episoda sastra Bugis klasik Galigo* (in Indonesian) ([ISBN 9789794613184](#)) page 77, Table 6
9. [Buginese](https://www.ethnologue.com/language/Buginese) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/Buginese>) at *Ethnologue* (22nd ed., 2019)
10. Khouw, Ida Indawati (15 July 2001), "Leiden, the Dutch city of poems" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130425112224/http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2001/07/14/leiden-dutch-city-poems.html>), *Jakarta Post*, archived from the original (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2001/07/14/leiden-dutch-city-poems.html>) on 25 April 2013.

Bibliography

- Abidin, Andi Zainal (1971). "Notes on the Lontara' as historical sources". *Indonesia*. **12**: 159–172. doi:[10.2307/3350664](https://doi.org/10.2307/3350664) (<https://doi.org/10.2307%2F3350664>). hdl:[1813/53521](https://hdl.handle.net/1813%2F53521) (<https://hdl.handle.net/1813%2F53521>). JSTOR [3350664](https://www.jstor.org/stable/3350664) (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3350664>).
- Cummings, William P. (2007). [A Chain of Kings: The Makassarese Chronicles of Gowa and Talloq](https://books.google.com/books?id=SfRjAAAAQBAJ) (<https://books.google.com/books?id=SfRjAAAAQBAJ>). KITLV Press. ISBN [978-9067182874](#).
- Hall, D. G. E. (1965). "Problems of Indonesian Historiography". *Pacific Affairs*. **38** (3/4): 353–359. doi:[10.2307/2754037](https://doi.org/10.2307/2754037) (<https://doi.org/10.2307%2F2754037>). JSTOR www.jstor.org/stable/2754037 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/www.jstor.org/stable/2754037>).

External links

- [Buginese Soppeng dialect](https://web.archive.org/web/20051018122546/http://language.psy.ackland.ac.nz/show_lsearch.php?id=00048) (https://web.archive.org/web/20051018122546/http://language.psy.ackland.ac.nz/show_lsearch.php?id=00048)
- The I La Galigo Epic Cycle of South Celebes and Its Diffusion (<https://web.archive.org/web/20060317160256/http://e-publishing.library.cornell.edu/Dienst/UI/1.0/Summarize/seap.indo/1107130756>)
- Languages of South Sulawesi (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071031035925/http://web.mac.com/ian.caldwell/iWeb/SulSel1/Languages.html>)
- <http://unicode-table.com/en/sections/buginese/>
- Kaipuleohone's Robert Blust collection includes [materials on Bugis](#).

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Buginese_language&oldid=962651137"

This page was last edited on 15 June 2020, at 08:12 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.